

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 /086 W

----- 087660

R 281000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 251

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0699

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA-RHODESIAN RAIL LINK

REF: A. GABORONE 0625 (NOTAL)

B. GABORONE 0682 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE TOLD ME MAY 28 THAT THE QUESTION OF BOTSWANA CUTTING THE RAIL LINK TO RHODESIA HAD NOT BEEN FORMALLY DISCUSSED AT THE KINGSTON COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. HE SAID THE MATTER HAD BEEN INFORMALLY RAISED DURING "CORRIDOR TALK". NO SPECIFICE PROPOSALS WERE PRESENTED. BOTSWANA MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

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2. MOGWE RECOGNIZED THAT THE CUTTING OF THE RAIL LINK THROUGH BOTSWANA TO RHODESIA WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE BOTSWANA ECONOMY. MERE FINANCIAL OFFSET FOR REVENUE LOSSES WOULD NOT COMPENSATE FOR THE ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO BOTSWANA.

3. MOGWE MADE CLEAR THAT THE ISSUE OF CUTTING THE RHODESIAN RAIL LINK HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET. HE SAID THE MATTER WAS NOT BEING STUDIED AT THE WORKING LEVEL. MOGWE SUGGESTED THAT BOTSWANA MIGHT THINK IN TERMS OF REDUCING THE TRANSIT TRADE TO RHODESIA BUT NOT CUTTING IT ENTIRELY. EVEN THIS MORE LIMITED KIND OF ACTION WOULD DEPEND ON WORKING OUT AN APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO CARRY BOTSWANA TRAFFIC BY TRUCK FROM SOUTH AFRICAN RAILHEADS.

BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC STABILITY, COMMONWEALTH, MEETINGS, RAIL TRANSPORTATION, RAILROAD ACCESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GABORO00699  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750186-0141  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 GABORONE 0625  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>  
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05 JUL 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOTSWANA-RHODESIAN RAIL LINK  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BC, RH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006